

Sentence Composing-Subject/Verb Splits
Practice Test

Key

Circle the number of the sentence with a subject-verb split in each pair below. (Internal punctuation has been omitted; you should recognize openers by their words.)

- 1a. Jack jumping up and down like a pogo stick made his way to the bathroom.
1b. He ran to the stadium early hoping to see Green Bay Packers get out of their cars.
- 2a. She who never understood the importance of money, spent every dime of her inheritance.
2b. Margot drove down the street and she ran into a truck.
- 3a. A large box sat on the porch just waiting to be opened up.
3b. The old dog stretched out on the porch lay in the afternoon sun.

In sentences #4 and #5, make the underlined part of the second sentence a S/V split for the first sentence. Write your new sentence on the lines, putting in correct capitalization and punctuation. In sentence #6, nothing is underlined. You figure out what to connect to the first sentence in the pair. Also, write what type of S/V split you have created.

4. Stacy shook his head. It was Stacy who generally overlooked T.J.'s underhanded stunts.

Stacy, who generally overlooked T.J.'s underhanded stunts,
shook his head.

Type of S/V split: "who" clause

5. My mother was baking a birthday cake for Dad's surprise party. She was singing happily.

My mother singing happily, was baking a birthday
cake for Dad's surprise party

Type of S/V split: present participle phrase

6. The curtains were closed tightly to keep out any light. They were red, with a blue and green geometrical pattern.

The curtains, red, with a blue and green geometrical
pattern, were closed tightly to keep out the light

Type of S/V split: (adj.) prepositional phrase

In each group below, unscramble the sentence parts to create a sentence that includes a S/V split.

7. flew freely in the breeze
multi-colored and huge
Jack's kite

Jack's kite, multi-colored and
huge, flew freely in the breeze.

8. walked to the center of the court
Sampras and McEnroe
who had played a great game of tennis

Sampras and McEnroe, who had
played a great game of tennis,
walked to the center of the court

Combine the list of sentences together, remembering to include a S/V split. Remember to use correct capitalization and punctuation.

9. Merlyn stared.
He was curious.
The staring was with his eyes wide open.
He was with his wand near his outstretched hand.

Merlyn, curious, stared with his
eyes wide open, with his wand
near his outstretched hand - or -
Merlyn, ^{curious and} with his wand near his outstretched hand,
stared.

Use your imagination to add a S/V split to each sentence below. You may not use the same type S/V split for every sentence. Remember to add only a sentence part, not a second sentence. Rewrite the sentence using proper capitalization and punctuation. Also, write the type of S/V split you have created.

10. Ron and Karl ^ came around the corner in a hurry.

Ron and Karl, playing tag, came around the corner in a hurry

Type of opener: present participle phrase

11. The room ^ seemed huge.

The room, filled with hundreds of people, seemed huge

Type of opener: part participle phrase / prepositional phrase

For the last three sentences you will write your own creative sentence, using a S/V split with a certain amount of words. One sentence will require 1-5 words, another 6-10 words, the last 11-20 words.

Example:
Example